

Parent Information
School Age Children

Impetigo



Your child has a rash that may be impetigo.

The instructions below may help you handle this health problem at home.

Impetigo is a skin infection caused by bacteria that often infects sores, insect bites and other skin rashes.

If your child has one or two small impetigo sores, they can be treated with a triple antibiotic ointment or cream that you can buy without a prescription. Ask your pharmacist to help you choose one that is right for your child. Read and follow the directions on the medicine label.

Before you put the medicine on, remove the crusts (if there are crusts) by soaking all sores with warm water for 5 minutes. After soaking, wash the sores with a washcloth, warm water and an antibacterial soap such as Dial™ or Safeguard™.

If your child has impetigo in the nose, it may be necessary to put a very small amount of ointment on a cotton swab and apply it to the sores in the nose. Your child will also need to be seen by a doctor or nurse practitioner.

Wash your hands before and after touching any sores. Impetigo can be spread from one person to another.

Keep your child's towel and washcloth separate from those of other family members. Wash

washcloths, towels, bedding and clothing with hot water. Dry with high heat or in the sun.

Keep your child's fingernails clean and cut short to keep him or her from scratching and spreading the rash.

Cover the sores if they are oozing or draining.

Your child will need to stay home from school if the sores cannot be covered.

- Your child can return to school or child care 48 hours after antibiotic treatment is started and the rash starts to heal.

Take your child to a doctor or nurse practitioner if:

- The rash does not get better in 1-2 days after using antibiotic ointment
- The sores become red, swollen or hurt
- Your child starts to feel sick
- Your child's temperature is 101° F or higher by mouth or 100° F or higher under the arm

Brand names used in this document are only meant to be examples. SC DHEC does not endorse any of the brand names in this document.

Children with impetigo should be excluded from school or child care, when lesions cannot be covered, until the student has received 48 hours of effective antimicrobial treatment, lesions are showing signs of healing (decreasing in size), and oozing has stopped.

For additional information about exclusion when a child has impetigo, see the DHEC Child Care and School Exclusion Lists of Contagious or Communicable Diseases at <http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/exclusion.htm>

Child's Name _____

School Nurse _____

Date _____

School _____

School Phone Number (_____) _____



<http://www.scdhec.gov/health/mch/wcs>